

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for  
3 distributing partial data, comprising a part of distribution  
4 data, together with attribute data including the price of the  
5 distribution data, to a storage region provided in each user  
6 side;

7 partial data reproduction release means which, when the  
8 user side has decided to purchase the partial data distributed  
9 by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the  
10 remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders  
11 the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible  
12 from the time of the decision at the earliest; and

13 remaining distribution data distribution means which,  
14 upon the receipt of a request from the user side for the  
15 distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the data  
16 corresponding to the partial data, distributes the remaining  
17 distribution data to the user who has requested the  
18 distribution of the remaining data.

1 2. A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for  
3 distributing partial data, comprising a part of distribution  
4 data, together with attribute data including the price of the  
5 distribution data, to a storage region provided in each user  
6 side;

7 partial data reproduction release means which, when the

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8 user side has decided to purchase the partial data distributed  
9 by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the  
10 remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders  
11 the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible  
12 from the time of the decision at the earliest;

13 payment ability judgment means which, upon the receipt of  
14 a request from the user side for the distribution of a part or  
15 the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the data  
16 corresponding to the partial data, judges whether or not the  
17 user, who has requested the distribution of a part or the whole  
18 of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data,  
19 can pay the equivalent to the distribution data;

20 requested data distribution means which, when the  
21 judgment by the result of the payment ability judgment means is  
22 that the user can pay the equivalent, distributes the requested  
23 data to the corresponding user side;

24 accounting means which, when the distribution of the  
25 requested data by the requested data distribution means to the  
26 user side has been confirmed, performs accounting of the  
27 distribution data for the user; and

28 requested data reproduction release means which renders  
29 the remaining part of the data, which has been distributed by  
30 the requested data distribution means upon the completion of  
31 the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user side.

1 3. A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for  
3 distributing partial data, comprising a part of distribution

4 data for which the time of the start of use has been fixed,  
5 together with attribute data, which can be disclosed before the  
6 arrival of the time of start of use, including the time of  
7 start of use and/or the price of the distribution data, before  
8 the arrival of the time of start of use, to a storage region  
9 provided in each user side;

10 partial data reproduction release means which, when the  
11 user side has decided to purchase the partial data distributed  
12 by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the  
13 remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders  
14 the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible  
15 from the fixed time of the start of use at the earliest; and

16 remaining distribution data distribution means which,  
17 after the fixed time of the start of use, upon the receipt of a  
18 request from the user side for the distribution of the  
19 undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to the  
20 partial data, distributes the remaining distribution data to  
21 the user who has requested the distribution of the remaining  
22 data.

1 4. A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for  
3 distributing partial data, comprising a part of distribution  
4 data for which the time of the start of use has been fixed,  
5 together with attribute data, which can be disclosed before the  
6 arrival of the time of start of use, including the time of  
7 start of use and/or the price of the distribution data, before  
8 the arrival of time of the start of use, to a storage region

9 provided in each user side;

10 partial data reproduction release means which, when the  
11 user side has decided to purchase the partial data distributed  
12 by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the  
13 remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders  
14 the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible  
15 from the time of the start of use at the earliest;

16 payment ability judgment means which, after the fixed  
17 time of the start of use, upon the receipt of a request from  
18 the user side for the distribution of a part or the whole of  
19 the undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to  
20 the partial data, judges whether or not the user, who has  
21 requested the distribution of a part or the whole of the  
22 undistributed remaining part of the distribution data, can pay  
23 the equivalent to the distribution data;

24 requested data distribution means which, when the  
25 judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user  
26 can pay the equivalent, distributes the requested data to the  
27 corresponding user side;

28 accounting means which, when the distribution of the  
29 requested data to the user side by the requested data  
30 distribution means has been confirmed, performs accounting of  
31 the distribution data for the user; and

32 requested data reproduction release means which renders  
33 the remaining part of the data, which has been distributed by  
34 the requested data distribution means upon the completion of  
35 the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user side.

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5. The data distribution system according to any one of  
claims 1 to 4, wherein the remaining distribution data is  
divided into a plurality of parts and which further comprises  
distribution interval regulation means that regulates the  
interval of the distribution of the remaining distribution data  
for each divided unit to the user according to the progress of  
the reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

6. The data distribution system according to any one of  
claims 1 to 4, wherein the distribution data are distributed  
through a radio network.

7. The data distribution system according to claim 2 or 4,  
which further comprises means, for balance processing during  
sales processing, that, when the result of the judgment by the  
payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the  
equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales  
processing is under execution, and subtracts the amount of  
money to be paid from the user's balance to determine a new  
balance value.

8. The data distribution system according to claim 7,  
which further comprises means, for establishing the balance at  
the time of the completion of accounting, that, when accounting  
has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the sales  
code to establish the balance.

9. The data distribution system according to claim 7,

2 wherein the period of validity is provided in the sales code  
3 and which further comprises means, for establishing the balance  
4 at the time of no charging, that, when the period of validity  
5 has expired, returns the new balance value, obtained by  
6 subtracting the equivalent value from the balance, to the  
7 original value based on recognition that the payment  
8 corresponding to the issued sales code has not been made.

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